

March 6, 2009 Messianic Service
OVERCOMING A RELIGIOUS SPIRIT
Pastor Geoffrey Cohen

Torah Portion:

Genesis 3:1-7

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the L-RD G-d had made. And he said to the woman, "Has G-d indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, G-d has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For G-d knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like G-d, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Service Portion:

▪ **SYMPTOMS OF A RELIGIOUS SPIRIT**

John 9:13 – 22

¹³ They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath when Yeshua made the clay and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

¹⁶ Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from G-d, because He does not keep the Sabbath."

Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

¹⁷ They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. ¹⁹ And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

²⁰ His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said these *things* because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed *that* He was Messiah, he would be put out of the synagogue.

▪ **HOW TO GET FREE FROM A RELIGIOUS SPIRIT**

- **It is always "grace plus nothing"**
Zechariah 4:6-9

⁶ So he answered and said to me:

“This *is* the word of the L-RD to Zerubbabel:

‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’
Says the L-RD of hosts.

⁷ ‘Who *are* you, O great mountain?
Before Zerubbabel *you shall become* a plain!
And he shall bring forth the capstone
With shouts of “Grace, grace to it!””

⁸ Moreover the word of the L-RD came to me, saying:

⁹ “ The hands of Zerubbabel
Have laid the foundation of this temple;^[a]
His hands shall also finish *it*.
Then you will know
That the L-RD of hosts has sent Me to you.

- **It is based on righteousness, peace and joy**

Romans 14:17

¹⁷ for the kingdom of G-d is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

- **We are all “us”**

Romans 15:7

⁷ Therefore receive one another, just as Messiah also received us, to the glory of G-d.

- **We are loved unconditionally**

Romans 5:8

⁸ But G-d demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Messiah died for us.

- **We are eternally secure**

John 18:9

⁹ that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, “Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.”

- **We are the “righteousness of G-d” in Messiah**

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of G-d in Him.